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Mayor

THOMAS M. BRADY
Superintendent



Providence Public School District
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April 30, 2009

Dear Providence Schools Staff, Families and Students,

I am writing to provide you information about the Swine Influenza (Flu). While the number of cases of Swine Influenza (Flu) reported in the United States has increased over the past week, and there have been no confirmed cases in Rhode Island, we have learned of one potential, unconfirmed case in North Kingstown. Providence School District officials are working closely with City and State officials to ensure that we are ready to respond appropriately should Providence Schools become impacted. In the meantime, school personnel will continue to monitor occurrences of illness, as well as reinforce to students the importance of preventive behaviors.

Swine Flu in people is characterized by fever, sore throat, cough, body aches, headaches, chills, and fatigue. The illness may last up to seven days, and people are considered to be contagious as long as symptoms persist. If you or your child are showing mild flu-like symptoms, we recommend that you consult with your health care provider.

Providence Schools wants to remind parents and staff members of the importance of reinforcing prevention actions to stay healthy. Please continue to communicate the importance of these behaviors to your children.

What Each of Us Can Do To Prevent the Spread of Swine Flu

- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, elbow or sleeve. Throw the tissue in the trash immediately after its use.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- If you or your child are sick, you should contact your health provider and stay home.

Please remember that students should stay home when they have any of the following symptoms: fever (temperature 100 degrees or higher), vomiting or diarrhea, blistery rash, heavy nasal congestion or frequent cough, and if your child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease. If you have any questions, please contact your child's principal or school nurse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas M. Brady".

Thomas M. Brady
Superintendent